

IAD/OSS-09/67
16 January 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Technical Development, NPIC

25X1 ATTENTION: [REDACTED], Development Staff, TDS/NPIC

FROM: Chief, Imagery Analysis Division, CIA

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Advanced Tilt Top Light Tables (918)

REFERENCES: 1) Memorandum, NPIC/TDS/D/609/67, dated 6 January 1967,
Subject - "Advanced Tilt Top Light Tables"

2) Development Objective "An Advanced Tilt Top Light Table",
dated 29 January 1964.

1. In response to your request, the Imagery Analysis Division, CIA, has completed evaluation of two (2) versions of an Advanced Tilt Top Light Table (918). Due to the short evaluation time available, only a limited number of senior PIs were able to participate in this evaluation; their comments are presented below.

2. The following features were favorably received by evaluating PIs:

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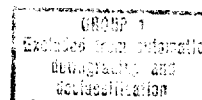
- [REDACTED]
- a. Film transport in two (2) directions by one-hand crank;
 - b. Push button reel brackets;
 - c. Fully powered film transport;
 - d. Free spinning steel film transport rollers appear superior to the plastic rollers on present tables; however, the surfaces of these rollers appear to be wearing or scratching;
 - e. The light shade extension system for the outside shades was well conceived; however, the center strip shade interferes with PI operations on one (1) roll of film;

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- [REDACTED]
- a. The coupled reel bracket spacing system which maintained alignment is good, particularly if the film is power transported (as on the [REDACTED] version).

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3. We approached this evaluation from the standpoint of selecting only those features which might be desirable on future light tables. Thus, undesirable features will not be enumerated. The cold (white) light versus the warm (pink) light source question resulted in an evensplit, with half the evaluators favoring white and half favoring pink; thus, we recommend no change from our present white light sources.

25X1 4. In regard to your request (Paragraph 1 of reference one above) for constructive criticism of features to be combined into a single advanced light table; it is our feeling that, with the exception of two (2) features (the push button reel brackets and the motorized drives), these light tables are generally less desirable than commercially available GFL918LW Tables which we are presently using. In light of these comments the IAD seriously questions further immediate pursuit of an advanced 918 light table; preferring instead, to equip the GFL918LW Table with commercially available motorized film transporters.

5. As noted in your memorandum referenced above, we received these tables on 19 December 1966 for evaluation and comments by 12 January 1967; this necessitated a complete evaluation within fifteen (15) working days spread through the Christmas and New Year holiday periods, in addition to our normal work on incoming reconnaissance missions. It is felt that the evaluation phase of the R&D cycle is probably the most important phase of that cycle, and that such short hurried evaluation defeats the very purpose for which some was spent to build these prototype units. The comment that this evaluation was necessarily short in order that your staff might initiate an advanced project, presupposes that the prototypes have desirable features and that an advanced project would be in order. As noted in our comments above, we do not feel that an advanced 918 Light Table development project is desirable at this time.

6. As always, the Imagery Analysis Division, CIA, is pleased to have the opportunity to evaluate new developments, and is constantly interested in valid improvements or modifications to its equipment which will expedite the performance of its mission.

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